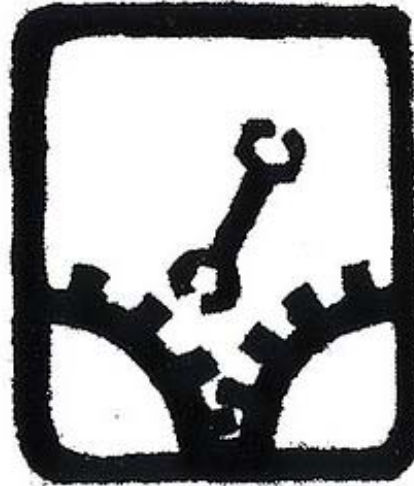


**GI SPECIAL 6H6:**



**Under The Hood:  
Anti-War GI Coffeehouse To  
Open Near Fort Hood:  
“The Focus Of Work By The Fort  
Hood IVAW Chapter And Their  
Friends And Supporters In Austin”**



July 22, 2008 By Tom Cleaver, The Rag Blog [Excerpts]

I'd like to let you all know that "Under The Hood," a GI antiwar coffeehouse in Killeen TX, outside Fort Hood, will be opening soon.

**Under the Hood has been founded in the tradition of The Oleo Strut, the GI coffeehouse that was in Killeen from 1968-72, and is the focus of work by the Fort Hood IVAW chapter and their friends and supporters in Austin.**

As one of the original staff of The Oleo Strut, I was quite happy this Spring to be able to bring 40 years of additional experience to bear on helping the GIs to organize the project, getting them an Austin law firm to do the work they needed to set up the Fort Hood Support Network pro bono, and to work with Jane Fonda to come up with the initial funding to get the site, equip it and operate it for the first several months.

We're looking forward to opening on Labor Day Weekend.

We have a website that I invite you to visit. [<http://underthehoodcafe.org/index.html>]

We have a PayPal account, or you can send a check to the Fort Hood Support Network.

We are in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization, so your contribution will be completely tax deductible.

**For those of you who don't know about the GI antiwar movement and the coffeehouses back in the day, yours truly has written a history of the Oleo Strut. [See below.]**

If you really want to "support the troops," this is the best way to do it.

GIs stopped the war in Vietnam and they can stop the war in Iraq.

Right now, Fort Hood is a collection of some 30,000 GIs assigned to the 1st Cavalry and the 4th Infantry Division.

Thank you in advance for your help.

**MORE:**

**You Can Help Bring "Under The Hood Cafe" To Life:  
An Appeal From Ronn Cantu,  
President,**

# **IVAW Chapter 38, Fort Hood: “This Is Really Happening” “Organize A Viable Movement To Help End These Destructive, Pointless Wars In Both Iraq And Afghanistan”**



[From the Under The Hood Café website] [<http://underthehoodcafe.org/index.html>]

**During Vietnam, the GI antiwar movement got off the ground when civilians started establishing a string of coffeehouses around military installations.**

**Since moving to Fort Hood, and especially since establishing a Fort Hood Chapter of IVAW, I've heard of many "movements" to open a coffeehouse, but for the first time (in a long time) I'm genuinely excited because it's really happening.**

**Your donations are greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward giving us what we need in order to take care of our brothers and sisters as well as organize a viable movement to help end these destructive, pointless wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**Thank you very much.**

**Ronn Cantu  
President of Iraq Veterans Against the War Chapter 38 at Fort Hood**

**MORE:**

# **“The Work To Establish ‘Under The Hood’ Began After Several Active Duty GIs From Ft. Hood IAW And Cindy Thomas, A Supporter Whose Spouse Is Currently Deployed In Iraq, Asked For Assistance”**

July 22, 2008 By Fran Hanlon, The Rag Blog [Excerpt]

Friends,

I'd like to add a bit more information regarding the current project.

**First, the work to establish ‘Under the Hood’ began after several active duty GIs from Ft. Hood IAW and Cindy Thomas, a supporter whose spouse is currently deployed in Iraq , asked for assistance.**

Alice Embree and I agreed to help.

**It was the vision of these young GIs which motivated us.**

With Tom's fundraising talents, the help of an attorney with military law expertise, and the determination of Cindy, a Killeen army wife, we have made a lot of progress.

**Though much has been done, including incorporating, launching a website, and initial fundraising, clearly, there is much, much more work ahead of us.**

**If you followed the link to our website, you saw that it is not quite ready for prime time, and that the Pay Pal donation link isn't working yet. We are still finalizing the 501c3 filing.**

**While we are optimistic, we are not certain that we can open by Labor Day.**

The work we have done so far is just the beginning.

Raising money to sustain the effort long term and securing resources (accounting, entertainment, counseling, maybe even carpentry!) will be an ongoing challenge.

We are going to need all the help we can get; this will require a big commitment on the part of the Texas peace community.

**I think it is correct to say that this community understands how important GI resistance is to the movement.**

For this reason, I feel certain that we are all up to the challenges that this new initiative will present.

In Solidarity,  
Fran Hanlon

MORE:

***The Oleo Strut Coffeehouse  
And The G.I. Antiwar Movement:***

**“It Was The Threat Of Soldiers  
Not Being Willing To Fight And  
Die That Stopped That War”**

**“Soldiers Refusing To Fight Is The  
Most Upsetting Image To All Of  
Those Who Claim To Rule, Since  
The Monopoly Of Armed Force Is  
Their Ultimate Weapon To Retain  
Their Power”**

**At Home, “A Government Cannot Put  
Soldiers On The Street Without The  
Prior Knowledge That If They Are  
Ordered To Crack Heads, They All  
Will”**

# “They Were Unwilling To Participate In A New War, A War Against Their Fellow Citizens”



Soldiers hanging out at the Oleo Strut, from 1968 - 1972. Photo (c) Alan Pogue. Used with permission from Sir! No Sir! photo galleries.

July 22, 2008 By Tom Cleaver, The Rag Blog [Excerpts]

**Writing in the June, 1971, Armed Forces Journal, Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr. stated: "By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state of approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and noncommissioned officers, drug-ridden and dispirited where not near-mutinous..."**

**"Word of the death of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units. In one such division, the morale-plagued Americal, fraggings during 1971 have been running about one a week...."**

**As early as mid-1969 an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield.**

Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused -- on CBS TV -- to advance down a dangerous trail...

Combat refusal has been precipitated again on the frontier of Laos by Troop B, 1st Cavalry's mass refusal to recapture their captain's command vehicle containing communication gear, codes and other secret operation orders... "

Shortly after this article appeared, President Nixon announced the new policy of "Vietnamization" and direct American combat operations came to an end within a year.

In 1971, desertion rates were soaring, re-enlistment rates plummeting, and the United States Army was not considered reliable enough to enter major combat.

**Today, the G.I. Antiwar movement that accomplished this is little-known, but it was the threat of soldiers not being willing to fight and die that stopped that war.**

**Soldiers refusing to fight is the most upsetting image to all of those who claim to rule, since the monopoly of armed force is their ultimate weapon to retain their power.**

**Much of what they have promoted in the 37 years since Heinl wrote that article -- the all-volunteer Army, the Rambo version of Vietnam, the resurgence of patriotism that crested with the invasion of Iraq in 2003 --has been in direct response to the specter of GIs deciding a war wasn't worth it.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The war against the war within the American military began almost as soon as America became directly involved in Vietnam, which can be dated to the so-called "Tonkin Gulf Incident," the excuse for direct American combat.

**By 1966, veterans like my old friend, former Army intelligence specialist the late Jeff Sharlet - who would later found "Vietnam GI," the major GI antiwar newspaper - had returned from their tour of duty and were trying to tell those back in America who they met at college what the real truth was about the war they had served in.**

Many in the campus antiwar movement did not respond to we veterans, with some purists telling us we were part of the crime for our participation.

Somehow we were neither fish nor fowl to many.

The result was that veterans began searching each other out.

Eventually, in early 1967, Vietnam Veterans Against the War was founded in New York City and took part as an organization in the spring mobilization against the war.

No one was more surprised than the veterans at the positive response they got from bystanders as they marched together as opponents of the war they had fought.

By 1967, Fred Gardner, a former editor of the Harvard Crimson who had served as an officer in Southeast Asia, had returned to civilian life. By September, Fred had raised enough money to start the organization he had been thinking about for two years: an group that would bring the antiwar movement to the GIs still in the Army who opposed the war.

In September 1967, Gardner and a group of friends arrived in Columbia, South Carolina, home of Fort Jackson.

Jokingly known as the "UFO," a play on the military support organization USO, the coffeehouse quickly became the only integrated place in the city (this was the old South

of the 1960s). The regulars soon consisted not just of black and white GIs, but also students from the local university.

A few months later, Gardner returned to San Francisco where he established Summer Of Support (later called "Support Our Soldiers") which was to coordinate the spread of similar coffeehouses to other Army bases.

The first two were to be outside Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and outside Fort Polk in Louisiana.

The Missouri coffeehouse managed to open, while the organizers sent to Louisiana were run out of town before they could even obtain a site for a coffeehouse.

Fort Hood was chosen to replace the Fort Polk operation. At the time, no one knew what a momentous decision this would be.

In August, 1967, riots broke out in Detroit, and the 101st Airborne Division was sent to stop it.

This was the first time active Army troops had been used to quell a civil disturbance in the United States since the Civil War. In April 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, and riots spread across the country.

In response, the Army was called on to establish an organization for suppression of riots that were feared that summer as the time got closer and closer to the Democratic National Convention, to be held in Chicago that August.

Fort Hood in 1968 was the main base where Vietnam veterans who had six months or less left on their enlistments were sent upon completion of their tour of duty in the war.

**Somehow, the Army thought that these combat veterans would be perfect for use in suppressing the war at home.**

**The Army brass weren't the only ones who didn't know the mood of the troops. Neither did we.**

**These were men who had experienced the Tet Offensive, men who had known the truth before Tet - that America was not winning the Vietnam War.**

**They were turned off from their experience and unwilling to participate in a new war, a war against their fellow citizens.**

Killeen at the time was a typical "old South" garrison town.

The town lived off the soldiers, but hated them at the same time.

Soldiers at Fort Hood were seen by the businessmen in town as being there strictly for the picking.

Avenue D was a collection of loan sharks (borrow \$30 and pay back \$42 - the payday loan industry's been around a long time), pin ball palaces, sharp clothing stores - one



had \$100 alligator shoes, a brilliant green Nehru jacket in the window with 12 feet of racks stacked with cossack shirts in satin colors - insurance brokers, and overpriced jewelry stores.

If a soldier walked into one of these establishments and didn't pull out his billfold within ten minutes, he'd be asked to leave.

Local toughs - known by the derogatory Texan term "goat ropers" - carried on their own war against the GIs, who they would try and catch alone at night and with assault and robbery on their minds. The local police generally sided with the "good old boys" against the "outsider" GIs.

The town was as segregated as any in the South; there was an active Klavern of the KKK to enforce segregation.

Killeen had grown from a population of 500 in 1940 (when Fort Hood was established to train Patton's coming armored corps) to around 35,000 by 1968.

It was not a place that was going to welcome "outside agitators" from California and Massachusetts, as we were. I remember an organizer for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee who visited that September and told me he considered Killeen more dangerous than Sunflower County, Mississippi.

**The Oleo Strut opened on July 4, 1968, with a public picnic in the local park.**

**GIs had been checking the place out over the previous month as the staff worked to set it up, and there was a large enough crowd that a reporter from the New York Times thought the event important enough to write a story about, that received national play.**

The coffeehouse was given the name "The Oleo Strut." An oleo strut is a shock absorber, and we saw this as a metaphor for what we hoped the place would be for the soldiers we hoped to work with. We had no idea what a shock we were about to absorb.

**Within a week of opening, soldiers were coming in at night to tell us of riot control training they were taking part in during the day.**

They'd been told they were going to Chicago to "fight the hippies and the commies" who were going to show up for the Democratic Convention the next month.

They were terribly upset at the thought of having to possibly open fire on Americans who they agreed with about the war and the need for change here in America. Soldiers were talking about deserting, about running away to Mexico, about "doing something."

**Our response was a little yellow sticker, two inches by two inches. On it was a white hand flashing the "peace sign," backed by a black fist.**

**We printed up 1,000 of them and passed them out. GIs said they would put these on their helmets if they were called into the streets, to identify themselves to the protestors.**

**At this point, the Army got very upset with us.**

The Monday of the convention, 5,000 troops were ordered to board the transports. They were headed for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Chicago, as backup for the Chicago Police Department.

As the soldiers were preparing to board the airplanes, the bravest act of antiwar protest I ever knew of happened. 43 Black soldiers, all combat veterans, refused to board the airplanes.

Due to the self-separation of the races on the base, we had no idea this was going to happen. The Black troops had organized themselves. They knew what they were going to get for this. The minimum qualification to be one of those who would refuse was the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, so the Army wouldn't be able to call them cowards.

As this was happening on the base, we were on the way from our house to the Oleo Strut, when we were stopped by the Killeen Police. A search of the car found drugs - we knew immediately we were set up, since we were completely drug-free.

We also knew immediately what a terrible threat this was, since at that time the possession of a joint could get one a sentence of 20 years in Huntsville Prison, as had recently happened to an SNCC organizer in Houston who'd had marijuana planted on him by an undercover officer.

We were scared.

In the end, only Josh Gould was held, since he had been identified as our "leader." He would stay in the Bell County Jail for six weeks until the Bell County Grand Jury would vote a "no bill" on the indictment, thanks to the tireless efforts of local attorney Davis Bragg.

The world knows what happened in Chicago.

**A government cannot put soldiers on the street without the prior knowledge that if they are ordered to crack heads, they all will.**

No one knew how many of the GIs would carry out their threat of resistance if put in the streets, so all were held back. Deprived of their military backup, the Chicago Police Department staged their historic "police riot." The GI antiwar movement had inflicted its first major blow against the government.

**In the months following, the antiwar movement took hold at the Oleo Strut.**

**Soldiers started publication of "The Fatigue Press," an underground newspaper we ran off down in Austin on a mimeograph the local SDS chapter found for us on the UT campus.**

**In November, 1968, GIs from Fort Hood staged an antiwar teach-in at UT, despite the best efforts of the Army to close the base and prevent their participation.**

**We also endured the daily reports of the court-martials of the 43 Black GIs, each of whom received several years in Leavenworth and a Dishonorable Discharge for their courageous act.**

Perhaps most importantly, a GI named Dave Cline walked through the front door that September.

Wounded in action with the 25th Infantry Division the year before, Dave was only now out of an extended tour of Army hospitals to deal with his wounds. He was completely dedicated to the cause of opposition to the war, and became the center of the GIs who were involved in anti-war activities on-base. He became the editor of Fatigue Press.

In later years, the rest of the country and the world would come to know Dave Cline, who spent all his life until his death on September 15, 2006, from the wounds he received in Vietnam, fighting for peace and justice as the President of Veterans for Peace.

He fought the Veterans Administration for proper care and benefits for all Vietnam vets, fought for both American and Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange; he fought against America's intervention against the Central American revolutions in the 80s; he stood up against the attack on Panama, the Gulf War, and intervention in Somalia in the early 90s; he opposed the bombing of Serbia and Kosovo in 1999 and traveled to Vieques to show solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico in their fight to stop the U.S. military using it as a practice range; he organized against the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and as his last act organized a Veterans for Peace caravan to bring relief to New Orleans after it was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and neglect by every level of government.

**A GI Dave knew in the 25th Infantry Division was so impressed by him that in 1986, that GI - Oliver Stone - memorialized him as the main character of "Platoon." Things weren't all heavy politicking.**

Then as now, Austin had an active music scene and I was able to find bands willing to make the trek up I-35 to entertain the GIs. The most popular of these bands that fall of 1968 was a new blues band fronted by a great young singer who was only 16.

Given they couldn't play in the Austin bars due to his age, they were happy to come up and play for the peanuts I could offer.

**The place would be packed whenever they appeared. 18 years later, in 1986, when I was at the United States Film Festival in Dallas, Stevie Ray Vaughn recognized me and thanked me for being the first guy to ever give him a break.**

Over the years between 1968 and 1972, when the Oleo Strut finally closed, many name musicians came and entertained the troops. Among them were Pete Seeger, who played to a packed house in 1971, followed by Country Joe McDonald and Phil Ochs.

**By 1970, there were some 20 coffeehouses - not all part of Support Our Soldiers - to be found in the vicinity of Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy bases across the country.**

**Their most important role was giving soldiers who had come to understand how wrong the Vietnam war was the knowledge they were not alone.**

**Eventually, this dissent within the military spread to the front lines in Vietnam, as reported by Colonel Heinl.**

Of the three original SOS coffee houses, the UFO was closed in 1970 by a court order declaring it a "public nuisance."

The coffeehouse outside Fort Leonard Wood succumbed to harassment and threats in 1969.

The Oleo Strut stayed open till the war ended in 1972.

Today, the site of the coffeehouse on the corner of 4th and Avenue D (101 Avenue D) is an office complex.

One can still, however, find the red paint in the cracks of the sidewalk that was thrown on the door and windows weekly, back 40 years ago.

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## **“Not One Of The Hundreds Of Anti-War Activists I Knew Would Dream Of Saying Nasty Things To A GI In Uniform, Much Less Spitting”**

July 22, 2008 By Allen Young, The Rag Blog [Excerpt]

I am proud to say that at Liberation News Service, where I worked with Thorne Dreyer and others on this Rag/Texas list, we were fully informed about the Oleo Strut and other anti-war coffee houses, and we did everything we could to support and promote them and their important work.

The compassion that anti-war people had for the unfortunate low-ranking military guys in the Vietnam era was obvious to me, and this relates to the anger I feel every time I hear the stupid "urban myth" about anti-war protesters spitting at GIs.

Not one of the hundreds of anti-war activists I knew would dream of saying nasty things to a GI in uniform, much less spitting at him (or her).

Allen Young

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## **“It Was The Kennedy, Johnson, And Nixon Supporters And The Pentagon Hacks Who Spit On Us”**

July 22, 2008 By Doug Zachary, The Rag Blog

Fuckin' Aye, my Friend!

It was a myth, perpetrated by the same oppressive assholes who were sacrificing my social class for capitalist hegemony in Asia.

That spitting thing ... It never fuckin' happened.

**It was the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon supporters and the Pentagon hacks who spit on us.**

**The Peace Movement loved us and worked hard, some giving up their lives (Remember Kent State?), to save us.**

**Our gratitude to you and to the Thorne Dreyers and to David Hamiltons and to Alice Embrees is forever!**

Doug Zachary  
USMC 2499357  
1968-1970

**MORE:**

## **“A Blinding Flash Of The Obvious”**

From: GI SPECIAL 3A78: 3.24.05

[Remarks given at Fayetteville, North Carolina, home of Ft. Bragg, at the rally 3.19.05. Thomas Barton, GI Special.] [Excerpt]

Greetings from New York City Labor Against The War; GI Special; Traveling Soldier newsletter, produced by Pham Binh; and the Military Project organizing committee.

**Here is a blinding flash of the obvious.**

**During the Vietnam war, the anti-war movement at home was necessary to stop the war, but it was not sufficient.**

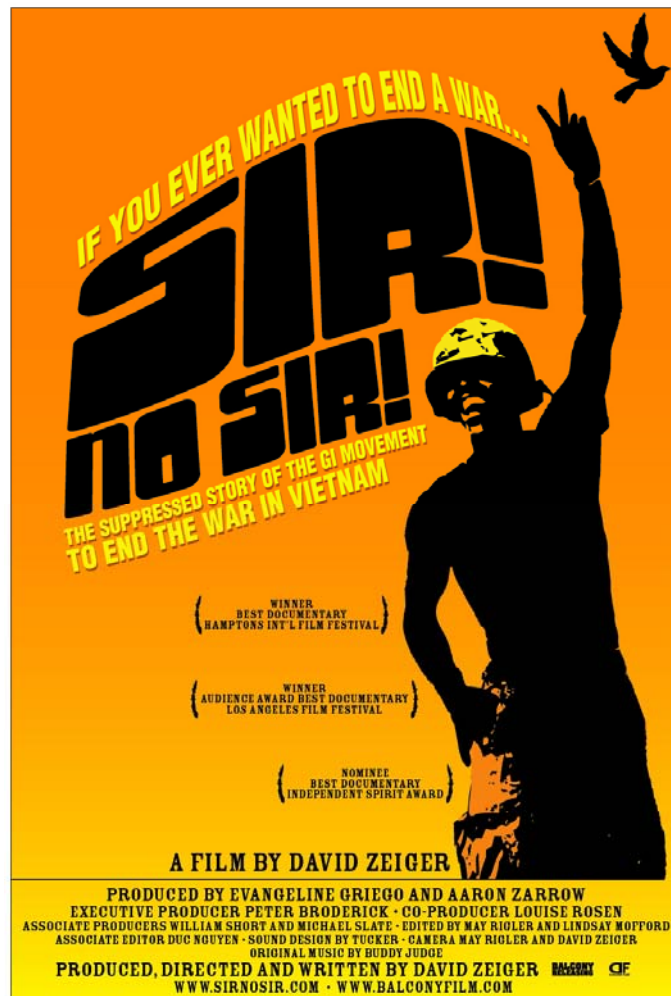
**The resistance in Vietnam was necessary to stop the war, but it was not sufficient.**

**But the rebellion against the war in the armed forces was both necessary and sufficient to stop the war.**

**And the war stopped.**

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# “If You Ever Wanted To End A War”



## Sir! No Sir!

The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at  
[http://www.sirnosir.com/home\\_dvd\\_storefront.html](http://www.sirnosir.com/home_dvd_storefront.html)

Also available is a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

**BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS  
NOW**

**HELP GET SIR! NO SIR!  
INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT MOST**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **U.S. Soldier Killed, Two Wounded By IED Somewhere Or Other In Iraq**

08/09/08 By BUSHRA JUHI, Associated Press Writer

An American soldier was killed in Iraq and two others were wounded in a roadside bombing Friday night, the U.S. military said.

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**BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR;  
EXPOSED POSITION;  
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



A U.S. soldier conducts a house-to-house search on the edge of Baghdad's neighbourhood of Shulla, May 18, 2008. Picture taken May 18, 2008. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed; Nationality Not Announced**

9 August 2008 FOCUS News Agency

A member of the coalition forces was killed by a roadside bomb in western Afghanistan on Friday.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **“Silent Sufferers Need Be Silent No More” Iraq Veterans Against The War Base Tour: Fort Drum**



Aug 3 2008, The Crew [Iraq Veterans Against the War]

Drum laid down a different beat last night, and truth was jamming center stage.



Speeches were not uttered by a single one of us, yet the message could not have been clearer.

The house of troops, some fired up, some visibly nervous, understood one thing: Soldiers, you're not alone.

Which we must thank Ryan Harvey for singing out to the crowd gathered round his guitar as the evening drew to a close.

Of course, Son of Nun and Head Roc brought the house down.

But what touched us the most was the Soldiers left at the end of the night after the music stopped playing.

There's an unquenchable thirst for justice in our military communities, and none reveal it better than the troops who know the score.

**One servicemember demanding constitutional accountability is more powerful than an entire bandwagon of pundits and politicians.**

**One of our members' old platoon sergeant showed up, and blew us all away.**

**His account of his experiences, his perspective, it captured everyone in the room.**

**His memories of our member who served under his leadership, it drove home to everyone that IVAW is in the ranks, and silent sufferers need be silent no more.**

**We're thrilled getting to know these folks, and we can't wait to introduce them to more.**

We unite around service to our nation, and the perils inherent in occupation. Our lives are not the policies we serve, and we find strength to protect the State of our Union now in the same manner we did in uniform. In solidarity, with brothers and sisters who march in our boots.

We welcome our two newest members with open arms and look forward to the BBQ today.

Thank you to the Watertown Daily News and North Country Public Radio for getting the story out.

More thanks to the Different Drummer Café which has kept a fire burning for peace and justice all these years.

The bar has been set high, and we're only two days out of the gate!

So much is yet to come.

Peace and Solidarity,  
The Crew

**MORE ON BASE TOUR:**



**Iraq Veterans Against The War  
Base Tour To Rock Troops Near  
Fort Stewart:  
“Stand Against The Continued  
Occupation Of Iraq”**

August 7, 2008, Press Release, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**SAVANNAH, Ga. – Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) will host three events:**

**Sunday, Aug 10 -- Concert at Loco's 301 W. Broughton St., Savannah**

**Monday, Aug 11 -- BBQ at Stafford Pavilion 607 Oglethorpe Highway, Hinesville**

**Tuesday, Aug 12 -- Fund Raiser 7:00 p.m. at 202 E 32nd St., Savannah**

Performing at the Loco's event will be Rebel Inc. and LastMan, while members of IVAW will be delivering one central point to all U.S. Forces and veterans.

**“Our message to the troops is simple,” said IVAW member Jason Washburn, a tour organizer and three-time veteran of Iraq.**

**“The state of the union is dire, but you are not alone.”**

This event is part of IVAW's State of the Union Base Tour.

Fort Stewart is the fourth stop in this 36-day tour, which will take six Iraq Veterans roughly 6,800 miles across the country. Similar events will be held at four more major military installations throughout the course of the tour.

Through fostering a discussion with service members regarding their rights and providing them an organizational outlet to stand against the continued occupation of Iraq, Washburn and others on the tour are delivering a message of hope to a group of people they refuse to leave behind.

"We're into the sixth year of this occupation," said Kris Goldsmith, another tour organizer and Iraq combat veteran.

"It is no less difficult on the Soldier today than it was on day one. We know, we've been there, but we're not finished serving; not until our bravest get the care they need and every troop comes home."

Iraq Veterans Against the War was founded in 2004 to give those who have served in the military since September 11, 2001 a way to come together and speak out against an unjust, illegal and unwinnable occupation.

Today, IVAW has more than 1,250 members in 48 states, Washington, D.C. and Canada and on military bases overseas.

To learn more about IVAW, please visit [www.ivaw.org/basetour](http://www.ivaw.org/basetour).

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Francesca Lo Basso, [media@ivaw.org](mailto:media@ivaw.org), 215-498-3347

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?**

**Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **Georgia To Bring Home Entire Iraq Contingent Of 2,000 Troops**

August 09, 2008 Gulf News

Baghdad: Georgia will bring its entire Iraq contingent of 2,000 soldiers home as soon as the United States can provide transport, the commander of the unit said on Saturday.

Colonel Bondo Maisuradze said his men were closely following reports of hostilities over the separatist enclave of South Ossetia and were anxious to return.

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# **Pentagon Fecaliths Devise Clever New Way To Fuck Over Wounded Soldiers: They Lower Staffing Needs At Warrior Transition Units “By Freezing Out Thousands Of Wounded Soldiers” Injured Soldier “Feels As If He Needs To Watch His Every Step For Fear That A Bad Move Could Lead To A Dishonorable Discharge”**

A month ago, a soldier told Army Times his company has several soldiers being medically retired. He said his first sergeant told them they had better keep their noses clean or he would process them out on Article 15s because he needs deployable soldiers in their slots.

August 11, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

When Army generals recently appeared before Congress to testify about staffing problems at the service's Warrior Transition Units, they laid out several new changes to fix those problems.

But they left out a key part of the plan: It lowers staffing needs at the WTUs by freezing out thousands of wounded soldiers.

“The Army issued a Fragmentary Order on July 1, 2008, refining the entry criteria for WTUs,” Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Army surgeon general, wrote on a medical command Web site. “Two base requirements: six months’ expected rehabilitative care and the need for complex medical management.”

But the scandal that erupted last year over mismanagement at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., showed that leaving soldiers in their own units as they go through the medical retirement process can cause problems in two ways:

- The process is delayed by line-unit personnel who don't know how to handle medical retirement paperwork.
- First sergeants are stuck with nondeployable soldiers in deployable slots, creating an adversarial relationship between soldiers and their commands.

A recent case at Fort Lewis, Wash., shows how this can happen.

**A month ago, a soldier told Army Times his company has several soldiers being medically retired.**

**He said his first sergeant told them they had better keep their noses clean or he would process them out on Article 15s because he needs deployable soldiers in their slots.**

**Meanwhile, the soldier said he has been assigned staff duty during times when he had out-processing briefings or medical appointments, and was told if he misses the duty, he'll be in trouble.**

**Then he was told he already had orders to go to the WTU — good news because he'd had to fight to get paperwork written up and signed.**

**Then last week, the soldier found out his transfer to the WTU had been frozen under the new order that went out July 1.**

The soldier said he doesn't mind pulling duty; he deployed to Iraq with the knee injury that is forcing him out of the Army. But he does mind being treated as a problem.

**And, he said, he feels as if he needs to watch his every step for fear that a bad move could lead to a dishonorable discharge.**

"It's a bad situation for the soldier, it's a bad situation for the first sergeant and the commander," said retired Army Lt. Col. Mike Parker, who has worked as an advocate for service members going through the medical retirement process. "It's not fair and it's dangerous to have an understrength unit training up to deploy for combat."

At the July 22 hearing of the House Armed Services personnel panel, four Army generals talked about being "overwhelmed" by the number of soldiers entering the WTUs, which grew from 6,000 in June 2007 to 12,000 in June 2008, and is expected to grow to 20,000 this winter.

Lawmakers berated the military officials for understaffing at the WTUs. Fort Hood, Texas, for example, had 1,342 injured or ill soldiers in June, but only enough staff to support 650.

**One advocate, who asked not to be named because he fears losing his job, said insiders at Fort Hood say the WTU waiting list is closer to 1,000 soldiers, and that**

people already in the WTUs are being removed and sent back to their line units before they finish their medical retirement process.

“They don’t have nearly enough staff to do what they need to do,” the advocate said.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### *Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!*

## **U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



Iraqi citizens hold their children as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. search their house during an armed home invasion in Baghdad's Sadr City early July 11, 2008.  
REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

**[There’s nothing quite like invading somebody else’s country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.**

**[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]**

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**The women and children were moved into a room, where they huddled together in silence. The men had been forced down onto their knees wherever they were apprehended, their hands secured behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and their eyes covered by makeshift blindfolds.** YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.07

**"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."**

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

**"During The Years That Followed The Collapse In 2003 Iraqis Lived Horror Life That Made Them Yearns For Saddam's Wars And UN's Sanctions"  
"They Wished Each Other The Close Day When They Will Congratulate Each Other On The End Of American Occupation"**

August 08, 2008 By Correspondent Jenan, "Inside Iraq"

Today Iraqis remember the anniversary of the greatest day of Iraq history the day of "great victory".

In such day before twenty years Iraqis get rid of the ghost of Iranian war. This war harvested the lives of hundreds thousands of Iraqis innocent people. Eight years of

sorrow and grief, eight years Iraqi mothers are losing their loved sons, husbands, and even innocent children.

I still remember my mother's suffering when the attacks start in the front lines.

She was always crying and saying "if the sky is cloudy I should cry and if it is clear I should cry too" she was saying that because she had four sons, my brothers in the front lines of the battle in different areas of Iraq so she was crying anyway.

When the war ended Iraqis thought their sorrow will end too, but unfortunately how quickly the second golf war started when Saddam invaded Kuwait .

**After this war Iraqis poor people found themselves punished with sanction of international society "UN" that made millions of Iraqis suffer from scarcity and poverty.**

**The sanctions were against Iraqi people who were already suffering hardship that Saddam with his followers were enjoying their lives in their palaces "green zones".**

The last chapter of Iraqi sorrow started with our liberation in 2003 at the hands of America.

After the collapse of trouble maker's regime "Saddam", Iraqis witnessed various kinds of catastrophes and they saw various methods of killings.

**During the years that followed the collapse in 2003 Iraqis lived horror life that made them yearns for Saddam's wars and UN's sanctions.**

Today 8th August, many Iraqis congratulated each other on the anniversary of "the master statements" in which Saddam announced the end of Iraqi-Iranian war and they wished each other the close day when they will congratulate each other on the end of American occupation.

#### **Troops Invited:**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

**NEED SOME TRUTH?  
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**



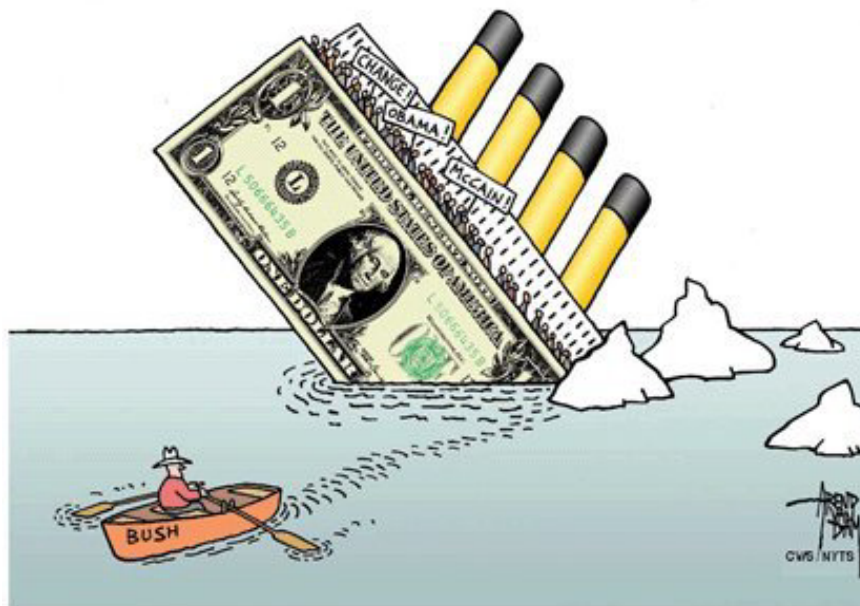
Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

# CLASS WAR REPORTS

## QUICK FIXES FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY



## One Day General Strike Hits South Africa: “Everything Is High. We Cannot Live Life Like This”

2008/08/06 BBC NEWS

South African trade unions have held a one-day strike, which has caused widespread disruption and brought much of the economy to a standstill.

The public transport network was severely disrupted, with a knock-on effect on schools, mines and carmakers.

Some of the country's biggest mining companies say they have been badly hit.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) sought to mobilise its two million members to protest against the high cost of living.

Public transport was affected across the country, unions said, with long queues forming for buses and taxis in Johannesburg. Many workers and students stayed at home as a result of the disruption.

**Thousands of demonstrators gathered outside Pretoria's city hall, waving sticks and singing, says the BBC's Jonah Fisher, in the South African capital.**

**Though the march was meant to focus on the cost of electricity, the banners and chants show that for most, this is a chance for the poor to vent their anger at steep rises in the cost of food and fuel, our correspondent says.**

**"Food is at a higher price than petrol. Everything is high. We cannot live life like this. We are sick and tired... The government must make a plan," one woman said.**

**"I've got a house, but what about the people who are staying on the street? People are dying, especially in the wintertime," a man said.**

Similar rallies were held at 17 other locations across South Africa. All nine provinces were involved in the strike.

Patrick Craven, of Cosatu, told the BBC that the strike was over rising costs across the board.

"It has to be seen in the context of all the other increases in prices which clearly make the electricity tariff that much more difficult to bear, particularly the food price increases, the fuel price going up and the rise in interest rates," he said.

Mining company AngloGold Ashanti said no underground work took place at the firm's mines.

Anglo Platinum - the world's top producer of the precious metal - said some of its mines and a smelter had been affected, Reuters news agency reported.

Cosatu, an ally of the governing African National Congress (ANC), said the strike would be a warning to employers who may want to sack workers because of a downturn in profits due to a power supply crisis.

A five-day power cut in January and the rationing of electricity to mines cut output and earnings.

"We hope to also send a strong message to the government that, as the working people in this country, we are not going to be taking on the burden when it comes to financing power," National Union of Mineworkers spokesman Lesiba Seshoka told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

He also said the union hoped that South Africa's government would punish companies that fix prices by giving them "very serious fines".

Cosatu has urged the government to subsidise essential commodities and demands higher wages for workers.

With President Thabo Mbeki due to leave office next year, South Africa's workers are determined to put their concerns at the heart of the next government, our correspondent says.

Another strike is planned for next month.

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## **“IF GREEDY CAPITALISTS UNDER-FUEL PLANES THAT END UP LANDING IN SKYSCRAPERS, WILL BUSH/OBAMA/MCCAIN DECLARE A GLOBAL WAR ON CAPITALISM? I THINK NOT”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

Aug 8, 2008 By JOAN LOWY, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON - Pilots are complaining that their airline bosses, desperate to cut costs, are forcing them to fly uncomfortably low on fuel.

Safety for passengers and crews could be compromised, they say.

The situation got bad enough three years ago, even before the latest surge in fuel prices, that NASA sent a safety alert to federal aviation officials.

Since then, pilots, flight dispatchers and others have continued to sound off with their own warnings, yet the Federal Aviation Administration says there is no reason to order airlines to back off their effort to keep fuel loads to a minimum.

The September 2005 safety alert was issued by NASA's confidential Aviation Safety Reporting System, which allows air crews to report safety problems without fear their names will be disclosed.

"What we found was that because they carried less fuel on the airplane, they were getting into situations where they had to tell air traffic control, 'I need to get on the ground,'" said Linda Connell, director of the NASA reporting system.

With fuel prices now their biggest cost, airlines are aggressively enforcing new policies designed to reduce consumption.

**In March, for example, an airline pilot told NASA he landed his regional jet with less fuel than required by FAA regulations.**

"Looking back," he said, "I would have liked more gas yesterday." He also complained that his airline was "ranking" captains according to who landed with the least amount.

**A month earlier, a Boeing 747 captain reported running low on fuel after meeting strong headwinds crossing the Atlantic en route to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. He said he wanted to stop to add fuel but continued on to Kennedy after consulting his airline's operations manager, who told him there was adequate fuel aboard the jet.**

**When the plane arrived at Kennedy, the captain said it had so little fuel that had there been any delay in landing, "I would have had to declare a fuel emergency" — a term that tells air traffic controllers a plane needs immediate priority to land.**

Labor unions at two major airlines — American Airlines and US Airways — have filed complaints with FAA, saying the airlines are pressuring members not to request spare fuel for flights.

**American notified dispatchers on July 7 that their records on fuel approved for flights would be monitored, and dispatchers not abiding by company guidelines could ultimately be fired.**

**Union officials responded that "it appears safety has become a second thought" for the company.**

At US Airways, the pilots' union took out an ad in USA Today on July 16 charging that eight senior captains had been singled out by the company for requesting extra fuel and had been required to attend training sessions. The union said the training order was a message to other pilots not to request extra fuel.

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